

## NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
1400 10th Street, Room 121  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**From:** California Department of Water Resources  
State Water Project Power and Risk Office  
2135 Butano Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95825

**Subject:** Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21108

**Project Title:** Edwards Air Force Base Solar Project

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2017111079

**CEQA Lead Agency:** Kern County Planning and Natural Resource Department  
2700 M Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California 93301

**Project Location:** The Edwards Air Force Base (AFB) Solar Project (Project) site is located approximately six and five miles south of Mojave and State Route (SR) 58, respectively, and approximately one mile east of State Route (SR) 14, in southeastern unincorporated Kern County, California. The proposed gen-tie line runs from the northwestern edge of the Edwards AFB north on Lone Butte Road, west on West Reed Avenue, and north on United, where it intersects with Purdy Avenue, then west along Purdy Avenue, and west along Oak Creek Road.

**Project Description:** The California Department of Water Resources' (DWR's) role in the Project is to enter into a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Edwards Solar 1B, LLC to purchase 48 MW of capacity and associated energy from the proposed Project for a period of 20 years. The PPA would fulfill part of DWR's commitment to renewable energy procurement for operation of the State Water Project pursuant to DWR's Climate Action Plan Phase 1, Update 2020. The Project would involve construction, operation, and maintenance of one solar photovoltaic power-generating facility at Edwards AFB. The final scale of the Project is anticipated to be greater than 100 MW but not more than 750 MW, with the generated energy distributed to investor owned utilities, municipalities, other energy off-takers and/or Edwards AFB. The construction scale of the Project would require a lease and development of up to 4,000 acres of non-excess land at Edwards AFB. The Project includes a pole line transmission system and underground fiber optic lines together with the appurtenances and equipment necessary or convenient for operation thereof from the Project site on Edwards AFB to Southern California Edison's Windhub Substation. Kern County, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), certified the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) and approved the Project in November 2020.

This is to advise that DWR, as a Responsible Agency, approved the PPA on January 19, 2021, and has made the following determinations regarding the Project:

1. The Project could have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A joint EIS/EIR was prepared for the Project pursuant to the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act and CEQA.
3. Kern County adopted a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the Project.
4. Compliance with the MMRP will be required pursuant to the proposed PPA between DWR and Edwards Solar 1B, LLC.
5. DWR adopted a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Project.
6. DWR made findings pursuant to the provisions of CEQA for the Project.

This is to certify that the Final EIS/EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval are available to the General Public at: Kern County Planning and Natural Resource Department, 2700 M Street, Suite 100, Bakersfield, California 93301.

Responsible Agency Contact Person: Deane Burk, (916) 574-0669.

**Signature:** *Ghassan Alqaser*  
Ghassan AlQaser, Chief  
State Water Project Power and Risk Office

**Date:** 1/20/2021

**Date Received for Filing at OPR:** \_\_\_\_\_